



293/008 Cont.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Thomas J. Bachinski et al.
Application No. : 09/406,575 Confirmation No.: 1763
Filed : September 24, 1999
For : MEDICAL GRAFTING CONNECTORS AND
FASTENERS
Group Art Unit : 3738
Examiner : Paul B. Prebilic

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION

Express Mail Label Number EF230784758US

Date of Deposit December 22, 2004

I hereby certify that this transmittal letter and the other papers and fees identified in this transmittal letter as being transmitted herewith are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Andrew Shire Andrew Shire

New York, New York 10020

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

Transmitted herewith: [X] Reply to Final Office Action with Appendices A and B to be filed in the above-identified patent application.

FEE FOR ADDITIONAL CLAIMS

[X] A fee for additional claims is not required.

[] A fee for additional claims is required.

The additional fee has been calculated as shown below:

| Claims Remaining After Amendment | Highest Number Previously Paid for | Number Extra | Rate | Fees |
|---|---|-----------------|------|-------------|
| TOTAL CLAIMS | - | 20* | = | x \$50 = \$ |
| INDEPENDENT CLAIMS | - | 3* | = | x\$200 = \$ |
| FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM | | | + | = \$ |
| | | | | \$360 |

* If less than 20, insert 20.

TOTAL \$

** If less than 3, insert 3.

[] A check in the amount of \$ ____ in payment of the filing fee is transmitted herewith.

[X] The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16, in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or credit any overpayment of same, to deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.

[] Please charge \$ _____ to Deposit Account No. 06-1075 in payment of the filing fee. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.

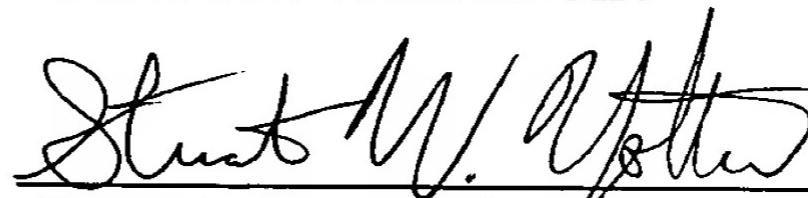
EXTENSION FEE

[] The following extension is applicable to the Response filed herewith; [] \$120.00 extension fee for response within first month pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a); [] \$450.00 extension fee for response within second month pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a); [] \$1020.00 extension fee for response within third month pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a); [] \$1590.00 extension fee for response within fourth month pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a); [] \$2160.00 within fifth month pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

[] A check in the amount of [] \$120.00; [] \$460.00; [] \$1020.00; [] \$1590.00; [] \$2160.00 in payment of the extension fee is transmitted herewith.

[X] The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 in connection with the paper(s) transmitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 06-1075. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.

[] Please charge the [] \$120.00; [] \$460.00; [] \$1020.00; [] \$1590.00; [] \$2160.00; extension fee to Deposit Account No. _____. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is transmitted herewith.



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REPLY TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated October 8, 2004, applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following:

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.

Appendices A and B are attached hereto.